# News-Pages of the GSWC

**The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 2 January 2018**
**To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 41, No. 2**

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**GSWC Meetings** are held at 1:30 p.m. at the Education Center Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, Michigan, usually the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May.

**Upcoming Meetings Fall 2017:**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018: "Michigan's US-12 Heritage Trail: America's Second Federal Highway"** presented by Susan Kosky and Gladys Saborio. **Class: "Your Ancestors in the County Courthouse"** with John Philip Colletta via DVD.

**Sunday, February 25, 2018:** **Live Webinar** **"New York City and State Vital Records and Alternates"** presented by Jane E. Wilcox. **Class: "New York Research"** presented by a GSWC Panel.

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**: **"Genealogy Research at the WMU Archives"** presented by Sharon Carlson. **Class: "Using Facebook in Genealogy"** presented by Katherine Willson.

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# News-Pages of the GSWC (continued)

When starting your Irish Genealogy:
- Don't focus only on direct ancestors.
- Do DNA testing.

He recommended two books:
*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham
*A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* by Brian Mitchell

Additional resources, such as internet sites, are available on the O'Reilly's website, under "Other stuff" at: http://MyAncesStory.com

**Class: "African-Canadian Research"** given by Omer Jean Winborn. Jean talked researching in Canada and the United States, and the Underground Railroad.

The first African Canadians were slaves, in the 1600s. After the War of 1812, fugitive slaves from the United States started arriving in Canada. In 1831, Nat Turner's Rebellion occurred in Southampton, Virginia, after which many southern states made it illegal to teach slaves, and even free blacks, to read which lead to illiteracy.

In 1834, the British Parliament abolished slavery making Canada a desirable location for former and fugitive slaves. Fugitive slaves escaped the US by water, steamboats, wagons, and walking—the stops on the UGRR in Michigan were 10 miles apart. Jean told the story of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn who escaped from Kentucky and took a steamboat to Toronto and of Adam and Sarah Crosswhite who in 1843, escaped to Marshall, Michigan, where eventually the town defended them against the slave hunters. Jean also discussed Elijah McCoy who was born in 1843 in Colchester, Ontario to a former slave from Kentucky. Elijah invented a steam train oiler, which became known as "The Real McCoy". Frederic Douglass, famous orator and escaped slave, spoke in Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor families with surnames Walls, Kersey, Prince, Price and Aray, (and others) as well as fellow GSWC member Cheryl Garnett can trace their heritage through Canada. Photos of Ms. Garnett's grandmother's house and relatives were shown.

Some research suggestions: look at Detroit and local churches. Important items to learn more about: Refugee Home Society the Queen's Bush Settlement-Black Pioneers, and George DeBaptiste who owned the Whitney Steamboat, and ferried many to safety.

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The Joint GSWC/LDS Library is re-opening on Thursday, January 4, 2018. Regular hours are 10–2 on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Open House on Sunday, January 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. All are welcome! Research team meets on Mondays to help.

The GSWC is looking for someone to take over as **Ancestor Charts Chair**. This involves indexing the Ancestor Charts as they are submitted, and maintaining a compiled list of names and submitters. The indexed names are printed periodically in the *Family History Capers*.

A **DNA Special Interest Group** has been meeting. Contact GSWC member Rodger Wolf if you would like more information: rawolf@umich.edu.

Jerome Drummond, at our December meeting, shared a new database of names in newspapers in the Ypsilanti area: http://history.ypsilibrary.org/genealogy/ which contains abstracts of vital records formally published or referred to in articles in the Ypsilanti Commercial newspaper.

Katherine Willson has notified us she is unable to continue her Genealogy Gems column in the News-Pages. We hope you have enjoyed her insights. Thanks are due her for sharing with us!

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The **National Genealogical Society Conference** will be held in Grand Rapids at Devos Place from May 3–5, 2018. The GSWC will host a table on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, during the Society night: 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., in the Center Concourse of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Volunteers will share information about Washtenaw County, and the resources available. If you are planning on attending the conference, and would like to help, please contact us at info@washtenawgenealogy.org. Hotel reservations and registration are now available at: conference.ngsgenealogy.org/. We will be setting up the schedule closer to the event.

The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research will host its **Annual Bus Trip to Allen County Public Library** on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Registration information will be posted in the Spring of 2018 on the DSGR website: https://dsgr.org/.


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